



RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION OF THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS ON ABDUMALIK BOBAEV October 13, 2010

RESOLVED:

WHEREAS, Abdumalik Bobaev has worked as a correspondent for Voice of America's Uzbek language service since 2005,

WHEREAS, Mr. Bobaev's repeated attempts to register with the Uzbekistan government have gone unanswered,

WHEREAS, Mr. Bobaev has been charged with slander, insult, threatening public safety and visa violations in Uzbekistan, stemming from his journalistic duties for the Voice of America,

WHEREAS, United States and other diplomats were refused entry to Mr. Bobaev's trial and told to seek permission from Uzbek authorities in the ministries of foreign affairs and justice

WHEREAS, if convicted, Mr. Bobaev faces prison sentences and stiff fines,

Now, therefore, it is RESOLVED:

The Broadcasting Board of Governors wishes to express its grave concern with the Uzbek government's attempt to silence Mr. Bobaev and his objective reporting for the Voice of America and the state of media freedom in Uzbekistan. Using the criminal justice system to punish journalists for freely expressed views is contrary to Uzbekistan's international obligations and has a chilling effect on journalists throughout the country. The Broadcasting Board of Governors calls upon Uzbekistan to drop the charges against Mr. Bobaev and cease all interference with the right of journalists in Uzbekistan to gather and report information freely.